

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 13067 081558Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 SS-15 SSO-00 DHA-02
NSC-05 NSCE-00 /054 W
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O R 081544Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO USDEL SECRETARY IN TAIF IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6955
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL BELIZE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 13067

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR BREWSTER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), MASS, GT, US
SUBJECT: AMMUNITION SALE TO GUATEMALA

REF: STATE 184483 (TOSEC 080139), SECTO 8064

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF BOTH OWEN AND TED ROWLANDS, I
CALLED ON SIR ANTONY DUFF, ACTING PERMANENT UNDER SEC-
RETARY AT FCO TO SEEK HMG'S VIEWS ON THE GUATEMALAN
REQUEST FOR 5 MILLION ROUNDS OF SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION.
WHILE APPRECIATING OUR DESIRE TO MAINTAIN CREDIBILITY
WITH LAUGERUD, DUFF ASKED THAT I CONVEY TO YOU HIS URGENT
HOPE THAT YOU WOULD CONSIDER THIS ISSUE "VERY
SERIOUSLY" IN VIEW OF SIGNIFICANT BRITISH RESERVATIONS.

2. AS THE BRITISH HAVE BEEN TRYING FOR SOME TIME TO
LIMIT THE FLOW OF ARMS TO GUATEMALA, DUFF EXPRESSED CON-
CERN ABOUT PERCEPTIONS OF OUR PROPOSED ACTION AMONG THE
BRITISH PUBLIC. WHILE HMG IS REALISTIC ABOUT THE CHAN-
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CES OF GUATEMALA OBTAINING ARMS FROM OTHER SOURCES, THE
PUBLIC VIEW OF OUR SUPPLYING BULLETS WHICH "COULD BE
USED AGAINST BRITISH LADS" IN BELIZE WOULD BE DAMAGING.
STRONG OPPOSITION TO SUCH ACTION WOULD BE EXPECTED OF ANY
MINISTER.

3. DUFF ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR THE REACTION AMONG

THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN NATIONS TO U.S. SUPPLY OF ARMS TO GUATEMALA, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE STRONG SUPPORT FOR BELIZIAN INDEPENDENCE WHICH CAME OUT OF THE LONDON COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE. MANLEY AND ADAMS WERE ACTIVE IN THE CREATION OF A COMMONWEALTH COMMITTEE ON BELIZE AND IN DUFF'S VIEW, WOULD OPPOSE THE SUPPLY OF WAR MATERIALS INTO THE AREA FROM ANY SOURCE.

4. FINALLY, DESPITE THE RELATIVE QUIET AT PRESENT, DUFF ARGUED THAT A U.S. MUNITIONS TRANSFER WOULD INFLAME THE ISSUE AGAIN AND CONTRIBUTE TO MAKING BELIZE MORE VISIBLE AT JUST THE WRONG TIME. THE BRITISH HOPE TO GET THROUGH THE UNGA WITH THE SITUATION STABLE AND AS QUIET AS POSSIBLE.

5. UNLESS THERE ARE MORE COMPELLING REASONS THAN THOSE ITEMIZED IN STATE 184483, I WOULD JOIN DUFF IN HOPE THAT THERE IS SOME OTHER WAY WE COULD INGRATiate OURSELVES WITH GOG.

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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